

REMARKS

In response to the final Official Action of March 17, 2010, claims 1, 7, 14, 21, and 22 have been amended.

Independent claims 1, 7, 21 and 22 have been amended to recite a key comprising a projection and a circuit board, wherein the projection of the key passes through a second aperture of the photoconductor and presses on the circuit board. Support for this amendment can be found in the published application in Figure 1 and paragraph [0024]. Claim 14 has been amended in view of the amendment to independent claim 7. No new matter has been added to claim 7.

Claim Objections

At section 6, claims 1, 7, 10, 21 and 22 are objected to because of various informalities. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome these objections, therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in allowable form and requested that the objections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. 103

At section 9, claims 1, 4-7, 10-13 and 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamada et al. (U.S. 6,331,063, hereinafter Kamada) in view of Nakajima (U.S. 2004/0067015).

With respect to claim 1, it is asserted that Kamada discloses a photo conductor having a surface and provided with an aperture and a ground plane, with reference made to Figure 31. It is further asserted that Nakajima teaches a device wherein the aperture extends through said photoconductor and is also provided with an electroconductive material at least around the edges of the aperture and the electroconductive material induced on the surface of the photoconductor is connectable to the ground plane, with reference made to Figure 64. Therefore, it is asserted that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Nakajima and Kamada in order to arrive at the claimed invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the apparatus also comprises a key having a projection, the photoconductor having a second aperture through which the projection extends and a circuit board, wherein the projection of the key is configured to press on the circuit board through the second aperture.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Kamada nor Nakajima disclose this feature of claim 1 as amended. Kamada is directed to an LED luminaire and Nakajima is directed to a micro lens array (See Kamada, Abstract and Nakajima, Abstract). Both references fail to mention keys or keypads entirely and fail to suggest using a key in the manner specified by claim 1 as amended.

Furthermore, in rejecting dependent claim 14 at section 10 of the Office Action, the Office states that Kamada and Nakajima do not disclose the feature of the claim including a keypad. Instead, the Office asserts that Yu et al. (U.S. 7,053,799, hereinafter Yu) discloses a light emitting diode configured to illuminate a keypad and a photoconductor layer configured to conduct the light emitted by the light emitting diode to a key, making reference to column 3, line 31. Applicant respectfully submits that Yu also fails to disclose the feature of amended claim 1; namely, a key with a projection that passes through a second aperture of a photoconductor and presses on a circuit board. The embodiments of Yu are shown in Figure 3 and 4, and are described in column 5, line 1 through column 6, line 54. These embodiments fail to show a key with a projection that passes through an aperture of a photoconductor and press on the circuit board (302 and 402).

Therefore, because none of the cited references disclose the features of claim 1 as amended, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not suggested by the cited references and is in allowable form.

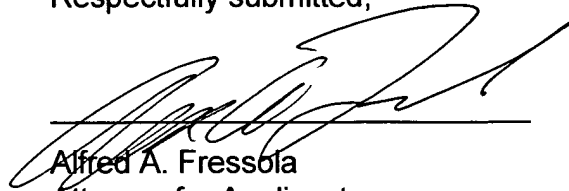
Independent apparatus claim 7, independent method claim 21, and independent apparatus claim 22 have been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 and, for similar reasons, are also neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

Dependent claims 4-6, 10-13, and 17-20 are also not anticipated or suggested by Kamada at least in view of their ultimate dependency from an independent claim which is believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account 23-0442 any fee deficiency required to submit this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfred A. Fressola', is written over a horizontal line.

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